

REMARKS

Claims 11 – 13 and 18 – 38 have been examined. Claims 11 – 13, 18, 25 – 29, and 30 – 32 stand rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,302,875 (“Makower”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,938,609 (“Pomeranz”); Claims 19, 20, 33, and 34 stand rejected over Makower in view of Pomeranz and U.S. Pat. No. 5,484,424 (“Cottenceau”); and Claims 21 – 24 and 35 – 38 stand rejected over Makower in view of Pomeranz and U.S. Pat. No. 6,171,296 (“Chow”).

The claim rejections rely on Makower as disclosing a catheter body having proximal, intermediate, and distal tubular portions having different flexural modulus, with a lumen suitable for receiving an imaging catheter such as an IVUS catheter. Pomeranz is cited as disclosing an imaging catheter having a drive cable within a lumen of the imaging catheter. The Office Action suggests using the imaging catheter of Pomeranz in the lumen of Makower.


The claims have been amended to recite that the tubular catheter body comprises a single lumen (Application, p. 9, l. 28) so that the combination of limitations defines a vascular catheter; the preambles of the claims have accordingly also been amended. The combination of limitations as now claimed is not disclosed in the prior art of record, either individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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Appl. No. 09/862,811

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Reply to Office Action of August 21, 2003 (paper no. 10)

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